

✓ SN-US035079

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re Application of

Shinpei OKAJIMA

Serial No.: 10/626,731

Filed: July 25, 2003

For: BICYCLE RIM



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the attached references to the Examiner's attention and requests that they be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application. Thus, *no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement*. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

European Patent Publication No. EP 0 714 791 discloses a rim body (2) with several spaced coaxial holes (210) for the passage of spokes (82). The rim has guides (9) housed inside the casing that are held axially before mounting the spokes by lugs (93). An English abstract is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

European Patent Publication No. EP 0 715 001 discloses a process comprising bending an aluminum alloy profile produced by drawing or extrusion, followed by a chemical treatment stage which includes removing metal from the rim (2) by immersing it in a bath (52) of an aggressive chemical liquid (51). This is followed by rinsing in a second bath (54) containing a rinsing liquid (53) then neutralizing in a third bath (56) followed by a second rinsing stage in another rinsing bath (58). An English abstract is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

European Patent Publication No. EP 1 167 078 discloses a spoke anchorage device consisting of a ferrule (12), with the outer wall screwed into a threaded location (7) in the rim (1) of the wheel. A nut (14) is screwed onto the threaded end (11) of the spoke (10). An English abstract is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Japanese Patent Publication No. 6-39502 appears to disclose a portion of an annular rim (10) having a plurality of transverse spoke attachment openings (17/18) formed in the radially inner part thereof with bent ends of spokes (20) mounted therein. The radially inner part of the rim (10) appears to have cutouts as seen in Figure 3.


Japanese Patent Publication No. 7-501022 discloses a rim (1) with a plurality of nipple holes (2), each nipple hole (2) engaged by a nipple (3). The nipples (3) have an inner thread (4) and a spot for applying a torque that allows the nipple to be turned in order to adjust the individual prestress of each spoke (6). In order to allow the spokes (6) to be exchanged without dismounting the tire, the nipple (3) is supported on the rim (1) by a further thread coupling (8/9). An English abstract of International Patent No. WO 93/09963, which is an equivalent of this Japanese patent publication, is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Taiwanese Patent Publication No. 313981 appears to disclose part of an annular rim (1) with spokes (3) coupled to members (4). An additional member (2) appears to be mounted in a trough of the rim (1) between the heads of the members (4) and the rim (1).

* * *

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick A. Hilsmier
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Dated: October 22, 2003

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/626,731
Filing Date	07/25/03
First Named Inventor	Shinpei OKAJIMA
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

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Sheet	1	of	2
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Attorney Docket Number	SN-US035079
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code (if known)		
		183647		Danford	10-1876
		395523		Taylor	01-1889
		399453		Warwick	03-1889
		446189		Overman	02-1891
		452649		Powell	05-1891
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		1367092		Porter	02-1921
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		1469769		Booth	10-1923
		1484844		Olle	02-1924
		1584576		Wagenhorst	05-1926
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		2937905		Altenburger	05-1960
		4583787		Michelotti	04-1986
		4793659		Oleff et al.	12-1988
		5110190	A	Johnson	05-1992

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(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	2	of	2
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[illegible]Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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